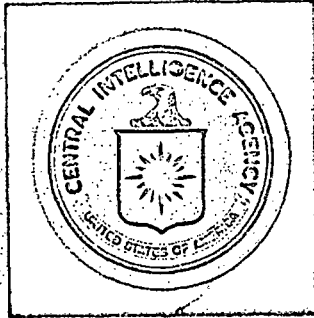




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The President's Daily Brief

June 21, 1974

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

June 21, 1974

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

[REDACTED]

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India [REDACTED]

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(Page 2)

There are indications that the current communist campaign in South Vietnam will continue until mid-July, though monsoon rains have caused a decline in fighting in some areas of the country. (Page 3)

Contacts in Ottawa this week between the foreign ministers of Turkey and Greece appear to have paved the way for discussions of the disputed rights to undersea minerals in the Aegean. (Page 4)

[REDACTED] Australia [REDACTED]

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(Page 5)

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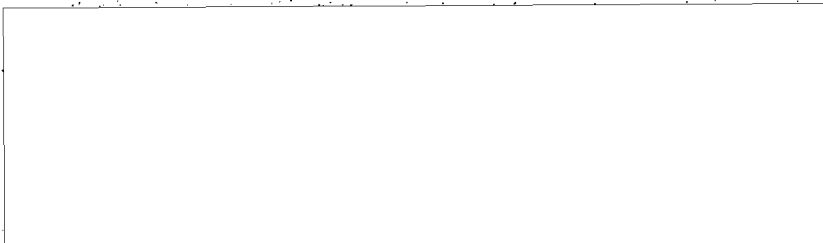
Notes on Page 6 discuss [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the imminent departure of Moroccan troops from Syria, and Japanese relations with North Vietnam.

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ISRAEL-SYRIA

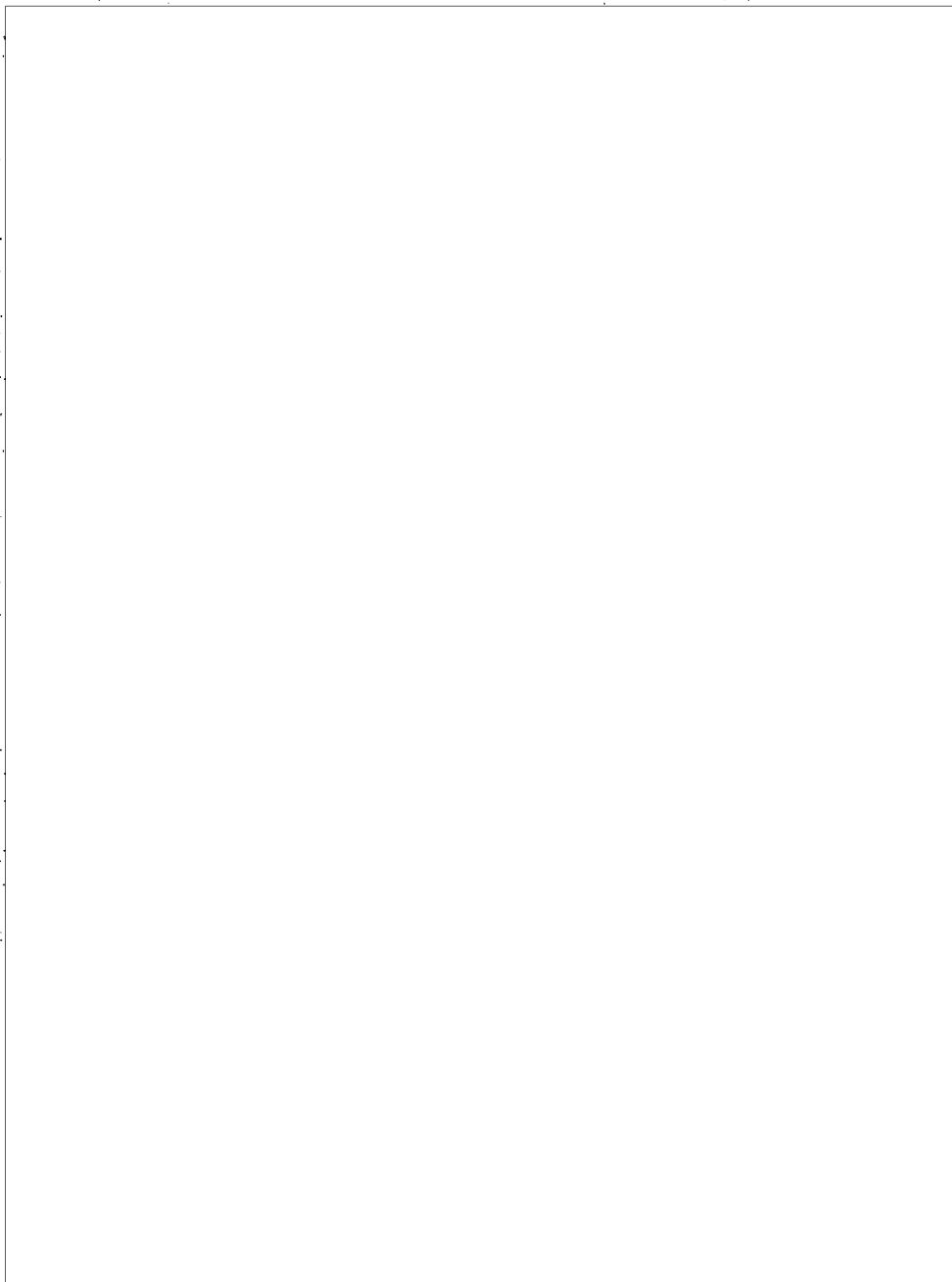


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Under the terms of the Israeli-Syrian disengagement agreement, no Syrian military forces are allowed in the area of separation between the Israeli and Syrian forces--an area in which Al Qunaytirah lies--but there is no specific prohibition against constructing fortifications in the area of separation.

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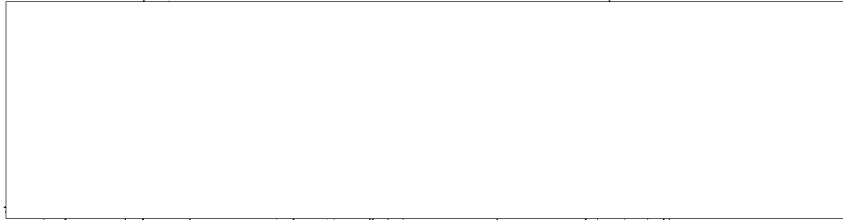
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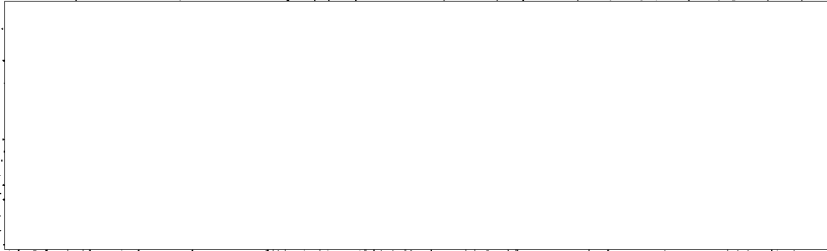
INDIA

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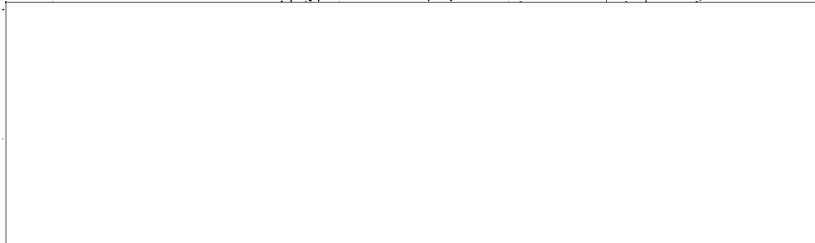
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SOUTH VIETNAM

Heavy combat is falling off in some areas of the country as monsoon rains increasingly inhibit the military activities of both sides. The most significant fighting is still in Binh Duong Province, just north of Saigon, where elements of the communist 7th and 9th Divisions are continuing to offer stubborn opposition to the government drive to recapture several outposts lost earlier this year. The government's regional commander suspended the operation yesterday but plans to resume it once his troops are refitted.

Sharp skirmishing is also going on in the Cambodian border region of the northern delta where the communist 5th Division is trying to reopen infiltration corridors into the central delta. In the highlands and in some northern provinces where government offensive operations are making little headway, the communists are relying increasingly on small-scale harassing attacks, terrorism, and blocking major highways.

There are indications that the current communist campaign will continue until mid-July, particularly in the coastal lowlands of the northernmost provinces where the weather is improving. Many main force communist units there have been strengthened and are preparing for combat. In addition to the increasing level of combat preparations in the north, the communists may also soon go after several isolated South Vietnamese outposts in the highlands and launch diversionary attacks in provinces near Saigon to draw government forces away from the front in Binh Duong Province.

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GREECE-TURKEY

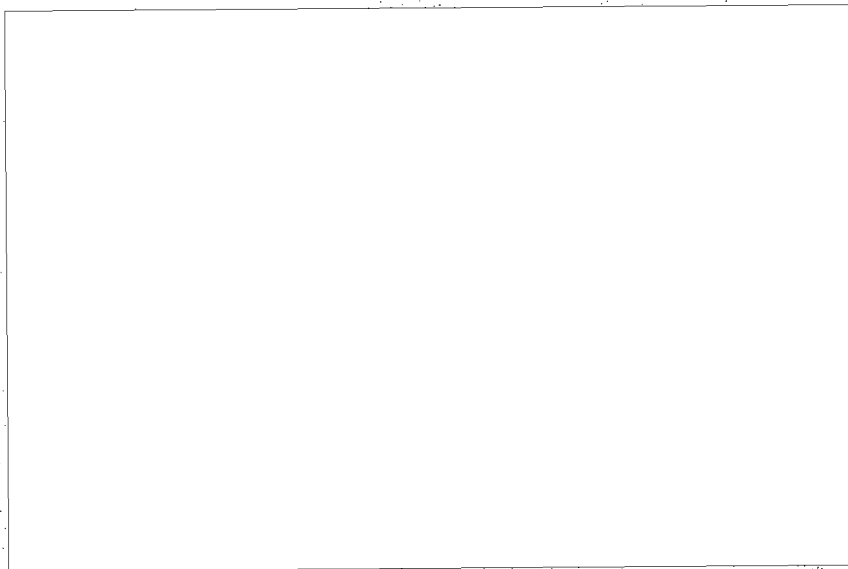
Contacts in Ottawa this week between the foreign ministers of Turkey and Greece appear to have paved the way for discussions of the disputed rights to undersea minerals in the Aegean by Prime Ministers Ecevit and Androustopoulos in Brussels next week.

Turkish Foreign Minister Gunes stated at a news conference yesterday that the two leaders would meet at the NATO summit on June 26. He added that with good will the two countries can work out their problems and that the NATO allies need not "worry too much." He further indicated that "specialists" would also begin talks in the near future. The Law of the Sea conference now convened in Caracas might be the venue for these experts.

Both sides have their armed forces in advanced states of readiness and some military movements are continuing. Both claim that they will not initiate hostilities without real provocation. The fanfare the Greeks and Turks have given to recent maneuvers of their respective forces in the Aegean probably was largely politically motivated and aimed at demonstrating their determination to press for their rights in the disputed area.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

AUSTRALIA



NOTES

USSR: Final preparations appear under way for a major Soviet space mission. A Salyut space station is likely to be placed in orbit and then a manned Soyuz spacecraft launched.

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[redacted] Soviet space support ships have taken up positions in the Atlantic from which they normally monitor manned space flights. The launch of the Soyuz to carry cosmonauts to the Salyut, however, is probably one or two weeks away.

Morocco-Syria: Morocco has announced that it is withdrawing its expeditionary force from Syria. Ceremonies in Syria marking the force's departure are scheduled tomorrow. Most of the Moroccan force, numbering some 2,000 men with equipment, will return home by sea. Rabat has already withdrawn its expeditionary force from Egypt. The return of these expeditionary forces may produce more political agitation within the Moroccan military.

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[redacted]
The King, however, almost certainly will take steps to see that the returning troops are watched closely for signs of disloyalty.

Japan - North Vietnam: Tokyo and Hanoi are making progress in resolving issues that have blocked an exchange of ambassadors since diplomatic relations were established last September. Both sides have been showing greater flexibility and Japanese officials are "fairly confident" that an agreement can be reached this fall. Tokyo claims to see no urgency, but there may be pressure in the Diet for faster movement.

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